

REMARKS

By the subject Amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 4, 9, 10 and 12, and cancelled Claims 5 and 6 without prejudice. Accordingly, Claims 1 through 4 and 7 through 12 are presently pending herein. Claim 1 is the sole independent claim.

Applicant has also provided a new Abstract overcoming all objections raised to the original Abstract. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that all objections to the Abstract be withdrawn.

The Official Action dated June 3, 2005 rejected Claims 1 to 7, 9, 11 and 12 under 35 USC § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Hansen. Claims 1 to 7, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Hughes et al. Claims 1 through 9, and 11 were rejected under 35 USC § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Autry. Finally, Claim 8 was rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being obvious over the combination of either Hansen or Hughes et al. with Autry. Applicant respectfully traverses all of the grounds of rejections for at least the foregoing reasons.

Applicant's invention, as recited in Claim 1, is a reamer drilling tool including an elongated tool body having an exterior surface. The reamer drilling tool further includes a reamer unit having a shaft with a first end and a second end and a cutter mounted on the shaft between the first and second ends. A pocket is formed on the exterior surface of the tool body sized to accept the reamer unit therein with a portion of the reamer unit recessed in the pocket. A plurality of pins engage the tool body and secure the reamer unit within the pocket. *The plurality of pins include a first pin engaging the tool body and passing through the shaft at the first end and a second pin engaging the tool body and passing through the shaft at the second end. The reamer drilling tool is blockless.*

Applicant's invention, as recited in Claim 1, is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record. Hansen is at direct odds with Applicant's invention. Specifically, Hansen discloses a roller reamer wherein a cutter 58a rotates about a pin 62 held within the reamer body by *blocks 66 and 67*. Applicant's invention, on the other handed, is *a blockless reamer drilling tool having a plurality of pins that engage the tool body and secure the reamer unit within the pocket. The plurality of pins include a first pin engaging the tool body and passing through the shaft at the first end and a second pin engaging the tool body and passing through the shaft at the second end*. Hence, Applicant's invention is clearly not anticipated or rendered obvious by Hansen, taken alone or in combination.

Hughes et al. is similarly deficient in its teachings. Specifically, Hughes et al. discloses a reamer having a blade or cutter 73 mounted on a shaft 59 where the ends of the shaft pass through *blocks 29 and 31* that are held in place within channels 25 and 27 in the reamer's body via keys 33 and 35. Hughes et al., like Hansen, is at direct odds with Applicant's invention as Hughes et al. expressly teach the use of blocks. Hughes et al., taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest *a blockless reamer drilling tool having a plurality of pins that engage the tool body and secure the reamer unit within the pocket wherein the plurality of pins include a first pin engaging the tool body and passing through the shaft at the first end and a second pin engaging the tool body and passing through the shaft at the second end*.

Autry is likewise deficient in its teachings. Autry includes a cutter 15 rotatably mounted on a cutter shaft 20. An upper flattened end 19 of the cutter shaft engages a slot 18 in the reamer body to secure the shaft in place and prevent rotation relative to the

cutter body. The intermediate portions of the shaft are held in place by *blocks 17* that are retained within recess 16 by means of keys 25. Autry, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest *a blockless reamer drilling tool having a plurality of pins that engage the tool body and secure the reamer unit within the pocket wherein the plurality of pins include a first pin engaging the tool body and passing through the shaft at the first end and a second pin engaging the tool body and passing through the shaft at the second end.*


Applicant respectfully submits that the subject patent application is in condition for allowance. Hence, Applicant requests that the subject patent application be passed to issuance without delay.

It is believed that no additional fees are due. However, should that determination be incorrect, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 50-0562 and notify the undersigned in due course.

Date:

10/31/05

Respectfully submitted,


James J. Merék
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 32,158

MEREK, BLACKMON & VOORHEES, LLC
673 South Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-5633